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Identical letters dated 8 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 6 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to an assault on an Iraqi fishing boat in Iraq's territorial waters that was committed by a Kuwaiti naval patrol, and he affirms Iraq's undisputed right to take whatever measures are necessary to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for such acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 8 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I wish to inform you that at 1800 hours on 29 April 2000 the craft *Ibrahim* (No. 185), which was being operated by Mr. Kazim Dahish Kattafah inside Iraqi territorial waters in the Khawr Abd Allah area within the boundaries of Basrah Governorate, was attacked by a Kuwaiti patrol consisting of two gunboats with nine military personnel armed with GC assault rifles on board. They opened fire, boarded the craft, assaulted the crewmen and confiscated the crewmen's fishing permits and the craft's papers. In the incident, Mr. Kazim Dahish and the crewman Fakhir Shabib Husayn received miscellaneous injuries and had to be taken to the Faw hospital for medical attention.

The action of the Kuwaiti authorities in entering our territorial waters to assault Iraqi fishermen there is a manifest breach of Iraq's sovereignty and an act of armed aggression that, by the most elementary standards governing relations between States, constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions that reject the threat or use of force against the integrity and independence of any country. We protest against the hostile conduct of the Kuwaiti authorities, and we urge you to intervene in order to prevent these violations, namely entry into Iraq's territorial waters and the perpetration of such acts of provocation. The Government of the Republic of Iraq reserves in full the inalienable right accorded to it by the Charter of the United Nations and international conventions to take whatever measures are necessary to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, to seek compensation for the material and other damage done to it by these acts of aggression.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq